



C. Earl Hunter, Commissioner

*Private Well Program  
Twelfth Annual Report  
2010–2011*

The 2010-2011 Private Well Program report is submitted by the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control in compliance with the reporting requirements set forth in Regulation 61-44. Additional information and resources regarding the Private Well Program may be found at: <http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/dwrw.htm>

### **Introduction**

About 690,000 South Carolina residents depend on individual residential wells for their water needs. Proper well construction is vitally important to help ensure that the groundwater produced from individual wells is a safe and reliable source of water. The purpose of the Private Well Program is to ensure compliance with the well construction standards.

### **Permitting**

August 24, 2011, marked the twelfth anniversary of the Private Well Program at DHEC. During the twelfth year, 3,325 Notices of Intent (NOIs) were submitted for residential wells and 1,671 for irrigation wells, totaling 4,996 wells. This total is 21 more than the previous year. Charleston County was the busiest with 450 approvals issued. Lexington County was the next most active with 446 NOIs processed. Aiken and York Counties had just over 300 approvals each.

### **Fees**

The fees collected during fiscal year 2010 totaled \$234,640 for residential wells and \$84,400 for irrigation wells, totaling \$319,040 for the year. This total is slightly more than the \$314,250 collected for the previous year. These fees are the sole source of funding for the Private Well Program, supporting permitting and technical personnel, EQC well inspectors and operating expenses.

### **Inspections**

The DHEC Well Inspectors conducted 1,377 inspections during the twelfth year of the program. Due to the substantial decrease in fees collected in 2011 compared with 2008, there are only two inspectors in the program. A majority of the wells inspected were found to be in compliance with the *Well Standards*, R.61-71. Enforcement action was brought against drillers whose wells were not in compliance. During the reporting period, Consent Orders were issued to two drillers and warning letters were sent to two drillers.